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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

SP - 46/82
26 April 1982
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, National Intelligence Council
FROM: National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs
SUBJECT: Soviet Technological Surprises

1. Some time ago you had asked me to formulate a list of candidate technological programs or events that, if effected by the Soviets, would be a "surprise" from our viewpoint. My review of the work we initiated at the time you tasked us was delayed because of the press of NIE 11-3/8 business. Before these "surprises" came to pass I thought I had better resurrect this project and submit a response to you. [redacted]

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2. After consulting with [redacted] and OSWR, we asked OSWR to devise a list of candidate technological events or programs that would be considered "surprises" if they were to come to fruition. That list is attached. It is broken down into three categories of potential developments for the next 10-15 years. These categories range from those programs or events that are very unlikely to occur during this period, to those that, while still "surprises," might be possible by the mid-1990s or so. [redacted]

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3. Some of the listed developments are arguable as to what category they belong. There are, of course, other technological developments that could be added to the various categories; for example:

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-2-

SP - 46/82

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However, I believe the attached list is an excellent starting point for future efforts on this subject. Perhaps we can discuss in the near future how to proceed further.

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Lawrence K. Gershin

Attachment

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied